

REMARKS

The Office Action dated April 9, 2007, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1, 3-29, 31-39, and 41-48 are currently pending in the application, of which claims 1, 29, 37-39, 46, and 48 are independent claims. Claims 1, 3-29, 31-39, and 41-48 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. No new matter has been added. Claims 2, 30, 40, and 49 have been canceled without disclaimer or prejudice. Claims 1, 3-29, 31-39, and 41-48 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

Claims 1, 29, 31, and 37-39 were objected to because of the British spelling of the terms “signaling” and “signaled.” Claims 1, 29, 31, and 37-39 have been amended, and it is respectfully submitted that this objection is moot in view of the amendment to the claims. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the objection to claims 1, 29, 31, and 37-39 be withdrawn.

Claim 33 was objected to for reciting “any of claims 29.” This typographic error, however, had already been corrected by the preliminary amendment. Thus, it is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn. The claim amendments above are based on the claims as previously amended by the Preliminary Amendment filed on February 23, 2006. In any event, it is respectfully submitted that this objection is now moot and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3, 6-8, 14, 17, 20, 24-29, 36-39, 42, and 44-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by 3GPP TS 24.229 version 5.3.0 Release 5 (“the 229 reference”). This rejection is moot, because claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and the subject matter of claim 2 has been included in all of the pending independent claims. The subject matter of claim 2 is not disclosed or suggested by the 229 reference, as admitted by the Office Action, and, thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn as moot, as the presently pending claims are admittedly not anticipated by the 229 reference.

Claims 2, 4-5, 16, 30, 33, and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the 229 reference in view of 3GPP 23.218 version 5.3.0 Release 5 (“the 218 reference”). This rejection is, to a degree, moot because claims 2, 30, and 40 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Nevertheless, independent claim 1 now has similar scope to previous claim 2, independent claim 29 now has similar scope to previous claim 30, and independent claim 39 now has similar scope to previous claim 40, thus the following comments on the cited art are respectfully submitted. With respect to claims 4-5, 16, and 33, it is respectfully submitted that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest all of the features of any of the presently pending claims.

The Office Action relied upon the same art that was cited during the International phase of this application. According to the IPER (and the Office Action, as best understood), the cited references disclose an application server that retrieves an address for an S-CSCF from a HSS and makes a service request on behalf of a user entity, which

is sent to the S-CSCF. The presently pending claims are clearly distinguished over such an arrangement in specifying that the originating request includes information regarding the handling of communications associated with the request.

Previously, arrangements terminating filter criteria were applied to all messages from the application server and problems were caused when the wrong filter criteria were applied, as may be the case where the application server sends a message that requires an originating filter criteria. Certain embodiments of the present invention can solve this problem by specifying that the originating request includes information regarding the handling of the communications associated with the request. By including in the originating request information regarding the handling of communications associated with the request, the communications associated with the request can be handled in an appropriate manner rather than, for example, being handled in a fixed manner. For example, according to one embodiment of the present invention, the originating request can indicate whether an originating or terminating filter criteria is to be applied to the originating request by a communication control entity and either terminating services or originating services can be provided based on the originating request.

Such a problem with previous arrangements, as identified in the present application and resolved by certain embodiments of the present invention, is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited art. Accordingly, the presently pending claims are non-obvious with respect to the cited art, because the critical and unobvious advantages discussed above cannot be provided by the cited art.

The Office Action took the position that the 218 reference “shows where the originating request includes information regarding the handling of communications associated with the request,” citing Section 5.2, page 12-13, and Section 6.3, pages 15-16. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Section 5.2 of the 218 reference discusses service interaction with the IP Multimedia Subsystem (IMS). The cited passage, however, is silent with respect to “wherein the originating request includes information regarding the handling of communications associated with the request,” as recited in each of the presently pending independent claims. Likewise, Section 6.3 of the 218 references discusses handling of SIP registration. The cited passage, however, is silent with respect to “wherein the originating request includes information regarding the handling of communications associated with the request,” as recited in each of the presently pending independent claims. Accordingly, the 218 reference fails to remedy the admitted deficiency of the 229 reference with respect to each of the presently pending independent claims.

Claims 4-5, 16, and 33 depend respectively from, and further limit, independent claims 1 and 29. Thus, claims 4-5, 16, and 33 also recite subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited art. It is, therefore, respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 4-5, 16, and 33 be withdrawn.

Claims 9-10, 13, 21-23, 31-32, 35, 41, and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the 229 reference in view of WO 02/09365 of Kauppinen et al. (“Kauppinen”). Claims 11-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as

being unpatentable over the 229 reference in view of Kauppinen and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0053441 of Banerjee ("Banerjee"). Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the 229 reference in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0027915 of Foti et al. ("Foti"). Claims 18 and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the 229 reference in view of RFC 2782. Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the 229 reference in view of RFC 2168. Claims 33 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the 229 reference in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0049790 of Faccin et al. ("Faccin"). Each of these rejections is moot in view of the amendments to each of the presently pending independent claims.

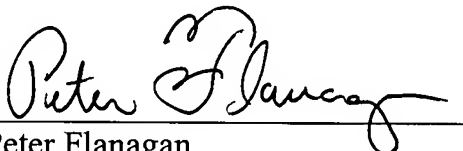
Moreover, none of the other cited references remedies the above-identified deficiencies of the combination of the 229 reference and the 218 reference with respect to the feature "wherein the originating request includes information regarding the handling of communications associated with the request," as recited in each of the presently pending independent claims. This fact is unsurprising, since the cited references were cited for features other than "wherein the originating request includes information regarding the handling of communications associated with the request." Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the presently pending claims are both novel and non-obvious with respect to any combination of the cited references. Thus, it is respectfully requested that all the rejections be withdrawn.

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that each of claims 1, 3-29, 31-39, and 41-48 recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited art. It is, therefore, respectfully requested that all of claims 1, 3-29, 31-39, and 41-48 be allowed, and that this application be passed to issuance.

If, for any reason, the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Flanagan", written over a horizontal line.

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